

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Ostrava Chemical Works (Urx Works)	DATE DISTR.	20 February 1953
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1. The Ostrava Chemical Works, National Corporation,¹ employs about 1,200 people, working in three shifts.
2. The hydrogenation department works on the production of ketone, chiefly for export to Russia. In charge of this department is Eng. Rabias (fnu); the foreman is Melimonka (fnu). There are 17 workers in each shift. Phenol, the raw material for the production of ketone, is supplied in a frozen state by the Brusov Chemical Works at Brusov. After thawing, the phenol is passed through the so-called "phenol set". This apparatus yields 15 barrels of 200 liters each of ketone in one shift; of these, 3 barrels are 90% marketable ketone, the rest has to have new phenol added and to be passed again through the apparatus. Thus the process repeats itself again and again.
3. In the hydrogenation department workmen tending the apparatus earned 12.90 Kcs. per hour. This is the privilege of the older employees. The others earned 9.20 Kcs. per hour.
4. Smokeless gunpowder is made in a department labelled Export. Access here is strictly prohibited without a pass. It yields 2 truckloads in 24 hours, most of which is dispatched to the USSR. Works militia under military supervision and administration guard this department.
5. The works as a whole are guarded by 15 works militia men per shift.

1. Comments: Now known as the Urx Works (Urxovy zavody, n.p.).

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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